[10th February 1959

Buildings in Fort St. George

* 19 *Q.*—Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the expenditure incurred in connection with the construction of additional buildings in Fort St. George to provide additional accommodation for the offices of the Secretariat?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : Within the last two years the following expenditure has been incurred for providing additional accommodation in the Secretariat :—

(i) Rs. 3,23,400 for constructing a third floor on the Western Wing of the new extensions.

(ii) Rs. 16,500 for constructing two rooms of the northern wing of the Secretariat new extensions.

(iii) Rs. 3,79,600 for putting up a new block to the west of the Secretariat buildings consisting of garages on the ground floor and office accommodation on the first and second floors.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that in spite of such heavy expenditure, the Members of the Legislature do not have one room which they could use as lounge?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Accommodation provided is for the Secretariat which is expanding and certainly, the requirements of Members should be taken into account when we have sufficient land to expand.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know whether the proposed work for constructing a new Council Hall is progressing or whether the proposal has been given the go-by?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : We are well aware of the great interest which the Opposition have in the construction of the new Hall. The plans are now being discussed.

Sri M. ETHIRAJALU : இப்பொழுது கோட்டையில் இருக்கும் உணவு சாலையில் போதுமான இடவசதி இல்லாமல் இருப்பதினால் இங்கே வேலை செய்யக்கூடியவர்களும் மற்றவர்களும் கஷ்டமான நிலையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே மற்றொரு உணவு சாலை கட்டிக் கொடுக்கும் நோக்கம் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு இருக்கிறதா ?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : In fact, if the new Council Hall comes into existence, the present restaurant will have to be shifted. All that is taken into account.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. the Leader of the House aware that for lack of accommodation, for lack of a separate room for Members of the Legislative Council, the room allotted to the Hon. the Deputy Chairman is always crowded? Has the Hon. Minister any idea about that?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not feel that is a matter for any criticism. I think they are in good company.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Deputy Chairman is very popular.

List showing details of diversion of surplus funds under section 31 *of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act,* 1951.

* 20 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to furnish a list showing details of diversion of surplus funds under section 31 of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951 (Madras Act XIX of 1951) during 1957–58?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALLAM : A sttaement[a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister enlighten us on the general principles governing the diversion of these temple funds to other institutions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, in the first place, the temples whose funds are proposed to be diverted should have sufficient surplus funds after meeting their needs. In the second place, the purpose for which such diversion is permitted should be in conformity with the objectives of those temples.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : As we find that there are several instances in which diversion has been made for non-religious purposes, will the Hon. Minister kindly reconcile the same with his statement that the objectives of the institutions concerned should be adhered to?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think, Sir, that there is any such non-religious purpose for which diversion is permitted. If feeding a poor, hungry soul is considered non-religious by the hon. Member, I could tell him a hungry man would have no devotion. If educating a person would be considered by the hon. Member to be a non-religious purpose, I could tell him, Sir, that preaching religion to an uneducated, illiterate person will only lead to superstition.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : As certain devirsions have been made for specific purposes, for example, the construction of a prayer hall in a particular college, may I know, Sir, whether the Government watch whether the particular purpose is being fulfilled by these diversions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Help for the construction of a prayer hall in an educational institution is certainly considered to be quite in conformity with the objectives of the temple. If a prayer hall is put up in a college and called a ' Prarthana Mandap ' or prayer hall, it will conduce to religious instruction in that institution.

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a Printed as Appendix IV on pages 216-219 infra.